

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended and claims 2-4 and 9-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

A. Figs. 6 and 7 are amended to include a "Related Art" label. Withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

B. Non-elected claims 9-12 are canceled in response to the finality of the restriction requirement.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,007,387 to Uchiyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a single terminal fitting having a bent portion.

In contrast, Uchiyama discloses a plurality of terminal fittings, each having a bent portion.

Additionally, claim 1 recites that the terminal comprises a first leg and a second leg that join each other at a bent portion, and that a reinforcement member abuts both the first leg and second leg. In contrast, the mount plate 8 of Uchiyama, alleged to correspond to the "reinforcement member," contacts only one leg of any terminal.

Accordingly, claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from Uchiyama. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

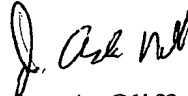
B. The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Figs. 6 and 7 of this application, in view of Uchiyama. This rejection is moot, because claim 1 now includes features of claims 2-4, which were not rejected over Figs. 6 and 7 in view of Uchiyama.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Replacement Sheet (Figs. 6 and &)

Date: March 21, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Figs. 6 and 7 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 6 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet